

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01118 281745Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /076 W

-----064702 281752Z /47

O R 281530Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 571

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1118

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA; INTERNAL TALKS CONTINUE

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT THE INTERNAL TALKS SESSION ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 27 ENDED WITH NO FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE ISSUE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. REPORTEDLY PM SMITH DID NOT ATTEND THIS SESSION, AND HIS TEAM WAS LED BY DEPUTY PM DAVID SMITH. DAVID SMITH ISSUED A PLEA TO THE BLACK LEADERS TO COMPROMISE ON THEIR STAND ON THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID PARITY BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK MEMBERS IN THE COUNCILS WOULD BE THE ONLY WAY TO SUSTAIN WHITE CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. DAVID SMITH REPORTEDLY ASKED THE BLACKS TO COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO HELP THE GOVERN-

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MENT "MILLIFY" WHITE OPINION PRIOR TO THE REFERENDUM WHICH WOULD BE HELD AMONGST WHITES TO APPROVE THE CONSTITUTION.

2. THE PRESS SAYS THERE WAS AN INFORMAL AFTERNOON SESSION ON FEBRUARY 27 BUT REPORTS NO SUBSTANCE OF THAT SESSION.

3. SITHOLE REPORTEDLY COMMENTED FURTHER ON FEBRUARY 27 ABOUT HIS RECENT TRIP (PRETORIA 1095). HE STATED NOT ONLY HAD THE UK AND U.S. BEGUN TO SUPPORT THE INTERNAL TALKS BUT ALSO MOST OF BLACK AFRICA. HE CITED GHANA, LIBERIA, MAURITANIA, SIERRA LEONE, SAMALIA, SUDAN. UGANDA AND ZAIRE AS " FIRMLY" IN SUPPORT AND MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA AS "ON THE FENCE". HE SAID ALGERIA, ANGOLA, CONGO, ETHIOPIA AND ZAMBIA WERE FIRMLY AGAINST THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

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Subject: RHODESIA; INTERNAL TALKS CONTINUE

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